

# Remembering an old friend to the town

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On Jan. 25, 1993, a man carrying a semi-automatic rifle got out of a car and began shooting into vehicles, making the turn into the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

One of the two men he killed was a CIA physician named Lansing Bennett.

## The insider



Kathryn Koch

Bennett's daughter is Community Preservation Committee chairman Holly Morris.

One writer has said that the CIA as it relates to Lansing Bennett, who was 66 when he died, could have stood for "conservationist in action."

Befitting that title, the conservation commission would like voters to rename Trout Farm as the Lansing Bennett Forest.

The publicly-owned land bounded by Congress, Keene, Summer and Cross streets and King Phillips Path was named Trout Farm at town meeting in 1975.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the conservation commission under Bennett's leadership acquired the majority of the more than 2,000 acres of land the commission controls today.

Conservation administrator Joe Grady says much thought has been put into giving Bennett a proper tribute.

"The conservation commission has really wanted to do something special for Lansing Bennett," he says.

The Lansing Bennett Forest sounds like a fitting tribute to the man who did what he could to protect conservation land in town.

It seems like such a long way from Duxbury to Langley, but it may soon be just a short trip to find a place to pay tribute to a true conservationist.

## Through the grapevine

The planning board's vote last week in favor of a \$50,000 traffic study was indeed legal.

Town manager Rocco Longo says he mistakenly challenged the planning board's vote. Here's why:

The planning board has seven members. Four members voted, with three in favor and one against. That's OK. Longo had wondered if three yes votes was enough. As long as a quorum, or four of seven members are present, their vote is a legal vote.

So that's how that works.

It will be interesting to see if voters at town meeting Saturday are willing to spend the money on the study.

No promises, but the town government study committee may update residents on the status of their work at town meeting Saturday, and the baywide study committee might do the same.

The government study committee has been talking about a whole host of new positions that could be added to town government.

Town clerk Nancy Oates isn't too fond of the idea of making the town clerk an appointed position, which she hears is being considered. She thinks all town clerks should be elected.

A past government committee tried to change the clerk's position in 1998. It failed.

It won't come up this year, but next year when the government study releases its final report, Oates will be ready to defend her position.

It will be interesting to see how Martha Stewart fares now that she's out of prison.

Predictions are that her career will really take off, again. She's already got a new reality TV show, and there's talk of other shows in the works.

Say what you will, she's a survivor.

Only in America.

Comments? Tips? Suggestions?  
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